

V. H. 210.2  
Jan. 31, 1951

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

MONTANA STATE  
MAR 14 1951  
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*Published by the Information Department  
of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL*

509 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 17, N. Y. TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

VOL. IV, # 2

January 31, 1951

ELECTION OF THE NEW FEDERAL PRESIDENT. On January 16, 1951, the Austrian Parliament unanimously approved a bill introduced by the Government for the election of the new President of the Federal Republic by the people on or before May 20, 1951. The Presidential Election Statute deals only with the details of carrying out the President's election; the basic procedure for the election of the President of the Austrian Federation is formalized in the Constitution.

In its original version, the Austrian Federal Constitution of October 1, 1920 stipulated that the President shall not be elected by direct universal suffrage, but by the National Council and the Federal Council meeting in joint public session as the Federal Assembly (Bundesversammlung) and voting in secret ballot. These provisions were changed by a Constitutional Amendment adopted in 1929. On the basis of this amendment, not only was the President's term of office extended from four to six years, and his constitutional powers broadened, but the provisions for his election were also changed. Thenceforth, the Chief of State was to be elected directly by the people. The text of these constitutional provisions for the election of the President of the Federation, as amended in 1929, reads as follows:

"Article 60. -- The President of the Federation shall be elected by the people of the Federation on the basis of direct and secret suffrage. All persons entitled to vote in the election of the National Council, shall likewise be entitled to vote in the election for the President. In the election for the President of the Federation voting shall be compulsory. The detailed provisions governing the election procedure and compulsory voting shall be covered by a separate Federal Statute....

"The person in whose favor more than one-half of all valid votes are cast shall be elected. Should there be no absolute majority, the balloting shall be repeated a second time; in the second balloting, votes may be validly cast for only one of the two candidates who had received the most votes in the first balloting. Either of the two groups of voters which have set up these two candidates can, however, substitute in the second balloting a different candidate for the one originally nominated.

"Only persons who are eligible for the National Council and who have passed their thirty-fifth birthday on January 1 in the year of the election may be elected as President of the Federation. Members of reigning houses, or of such families as have formerly reigned, are not eligible for election....

"The term of office of the President of the Federation shall be for six years. Re-election for the term of office immediately following is permissible on only one occasion."

The late President of the Federation, Dr. Karl Renner, was not elected by direct universal suffrage on December 20, 1945, in view of the extraordinary conditions prevailing at that time, but was still elected by the Federal Assembly, in accordance with a special provision of the Constitution Transition Statute of 1945.

The Presidential Election Statute, unanimously approved by the Austrian Parliament for the first time now provides the legal basis and practical possibility for the Federal President to be elected directly by the people, as stipulated in the Constitutional Amendment of 1929. A separate Constitutional Statute would be necessary if the President were to be elected by the Federal Assembly, as required in the original version of the Constitution. To date, however, no bill has been introduced in Parliament for the adoption of such a Constitutional Statute.

250,000 ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF DR. KARL RENNER. On January 5, 1951, the body of Dr. Karl Renner, the lamented President of Austria, was lowered into the grave at Vienna's Central Cemetery. The members of both Houses of Parliament convened in a memorial session which was attended by the country's Provincial Governors, members of the state legislatures

and provincial administrations, and many others who had come to render homage to the memory of the late President. Leopold Kunschak, President of the Lower House (Nationalrat), paid tribute to Dr. Renner's historic contribution to his country. The official funeral service began at 1 o'clock in the Ceremonial Chamber of Vienna's Town Hall, where Dr. Renner's body had lain in state for two days. Among those present were the four Allied High Commissioners, their deputies and commanders of the occupation forces, as well as the diplomats acting as special envoys of their Chiefs of State. After the poignant harmonies of Beethoven's Funeral March, played by the Vienna Philharmonic, Chancellor Leopold Figl, the Acting President, made the funeral oration: "Unfortunately, Dr. Renner was not to live to see his Fatherland attain its liberty and sovereignty. It is our resolve to stand together in the spirit of conciliation which Karl Renner exemplified so well. Thus, for the first time in the history of our republic, Austrians stand sorrowing before the bier of a President who has been torn from us in the midst of his labors in troubled times which see us fighting for our freedom in a world without peace."

To the strains of the National Anthem, the coffin was carried from the hall and the cortege made its slow way to the cemetery. A quarter of a million people stood ten deep along the misty lamplighted Ringstrasse to see it pass. In front of the procession was a battalion of the gendarmerie, a battalion of the federal police, and a company of customs and court police. At 14:22 the procession halted before the Austrian Parliament in recognition of Dr. Renner's legislative labors.

At the Central Cemetery Vice Chancellor Adolf Schaerf delivered the memorial address: "Dr. Karl Renner has often been called an architect because he had twice erected the Austrian structure of state in which our people live. Dr. Renner found the common connections between antitheses, he threw bridges across abysses which had kept the nation, its classes and its parties divided." Finally, the representatives of the Government and the other notables paid their last respects to the departed Austrian Chief of State.

MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE FOR DR. RENNER. On January 18, 1951, the Austrian Institute in New York held a memorial observance for Dr. Karl Renner, which was also attended by officials of the Austrian Consulate General in New York. Following the opening remarks by Mr. F.E. Taylor, President of the Austrian Institute, and an address by Dr. Franz Matsch, Consul General of Austria in New York, Professor Eric C. Hula delivered the obituary address. Mr. Hans Hotter, member of the Vienna State Opera and of the Metropolitan Opera of New York, was heard in songs by Schubert and Brahms.

DR. GRUBER COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. Austrian Foreign Minister Karl Gruber commented on Austria's position in the present international situation and specifically warned against any kind of war hysteria, in the course of a lecture he delivered in mid-January at the Landhaus (seat of the provincial government) of Upper Austria. Dr. Gruber said that although the situation was serious, it by no means justified a war scare which would exercise an obstructionist influence on various branches of Austrian life. Austria's reaction should rather be to do whatever she could to protect her rights at any eventual negotiations between the Big Four, and to continue to press for her independence. Another very important problem was the question of future foreign assistance to Austria after the end of the Marshall Plan in 1952. In view of this necessity, the foundations were now being laid for a different form of foreign aid, purely economic in nature, for which the prospects appeared excellent, Dr. Gruber said.

YUGOSLAVIA ENDS STATE OF WAR WITH AUSTRIA. The Presidium of the National Assembly of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia voted on January 1, 1951, to end the state of war with the Republic of Austria. The official announcement said that five years had elapsed since the end of the war and that there was no longer any reason for the continuation of the state of war with Austria.

On this occasion, the Foreign Affairs Department of the Federal Chancellery issued an official announcement on January 20, 1951, in which the Austrian Government states that although this decision has not yet been communicated to it through official channels, it had for some time past been preceded by a regular exchange of views between the two governments. Among other things, the Austrian announcement said: "There is no doubt that this decision represents a further im-

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portant contribution to the normalization of the relations between the two nations, and, as such, is therefore warmly welcomed by the people of Austria. An immediate practical consequence of the abrogation of the state of war would be the elevation of the two countries' political missions to the rank of legations. For its part, the Federal Government, which is most keenly interested in seeing the relations with its southern neighbor repose on a friendly basis, will take cognizance of the official communication of this measure with utmost satisfaction."

AUSTRIA GRANTS CREDITS TO YUGOSLAVIA. Austria has been given a special five-million-dollar Marshall Plan grant to help her carry out the terms of a medium-term credit agreement with Yugoslavia, the Economic Cooperation Administration announced on January 18, 1951. Under the provisions of a recently-concluded trade agreement, Austria is extending to Yugoslavia a schilling credit equivalent to ten million dollars. Yugoslavia will use the credit within the next two years to finance the purchase of essential industrial items manufactured in Austria. Yugoslav purchases from Austria will include various types of mechanical equipment. The credit agreement with Yugoslavia also provides that she may use part of the credit to finance the costs of designs and engineering services needed in installing the Austrian-manufactured equipment. The credit is to be repaid by Yugoslavia within five years. The interest rate has been set at the present bank rate of the Austrian National Bank, namely three and one-half per cent.

AVALANCHE DISASTER IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS. According to a cable received from Austria on January 25th not a single foreign visitor to Austria was hurt in the recent heavy avalanches that caused considerable damage in the Alpine parts of the country. The four American ski champions now in Austria at the invitation of the Austrian Ski Association are reported safe in Seefeld near Innsbruck. All rumors of damage to Zuers and the Arlberg resorts are unfounded. The Arlberg Express from Paris to Vienna, which crosses the Eastern Alpine divide, is again in operation and running on schedule, and the motor sled service leading to the mountain resorts is restored.

175 persons were buried by the giant avalanches in the Austrian Alps in the course of a few days, and a total of 68 killed. Damage to dwellings, hotels, communication lines, highways and industrial installations has not yet been ascertained but the destruction is known to have been widespread. One of Austria's greatest tragedies occurred at the famous health resort of Bad Gastein where 14 persons were killed. Barns were crushed or swept away, and hundreds of heads of cattle were lost. The entire French Command in Austria, three to four thousand men including para chute troops, was placed at the disposal of Austrian authorities for clearing railroads and highways. American Headquarters in Salzburg also placed its technical services at the disposal of the Austrian authorities and promised to dispatch a helicopter to bring food to a camp near Heiligenblut where 200 workers were cut off from the rest of the world. The British also offered their troops to the Austrian authorities.

"PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES" CLAIM AUSTRIAN MACHINERY. According to the Arbeiter-Zeitung in Vienna, the Soviet occupation authorities in the Russian Zone of Austria issued orders in mid-July for all machinery and industrial installations acquired after September 1, 1939, to be registered.

The paper says that on the basis of these reports commissions from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary made inspections of Austrian enterprises where the equipment is located, and showed particular interest for turning lathes and milling machines, presses, drilling machines, compressors, compound machine units, and motors. Such inspections have been reported on three previous occasions which resulted in the loss of several million schillings. Another 350 plants are being searched at the present time. In addition to machinery, these commissions are also looking for motor vehicles, shoes, textiles and other consumer goods. Information leading to such seizures is often furnished by Austrian Communists. The danger of industrial espionage in the Russian Zone is reported to have increased as a result of these inspections.

Austria has claims against Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland in the amount of 3.4 billion schillings which have not yet been satisfied in spite of numerous attempts on the part of the Austrian Government to effect a settlement with these countries.

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RUSSIANS INCREASE THEIR BROADCAST TIME ON VIENNA RADIO. The Socialist News Service reports that the Austrian Broadcasting System (RAVAG) has had to insert four new programs of "The Russian Hour" in its broadcast schedule. This raises to sixteen hours and five minutes per week the broadcast time devoted to Russian propaganda transmissions on the Austrian radio.

U.S. FORCES IN AUSTRIA ON WINTER MANEUVERS. In mid-January the United States Occupation Forces in Austria held extensive winter maneuvers in the area stretching from the Tyrol mountains to Upper Austria.

WOMEN'S CLINIC IN LINZ RETURNED TO AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES. Lt. Gen. S. Leroy Irwin, Commanding General of the United States Forces in Austria, recently announced that the Linz Women's Clinic, which has a capacity of 250 beds, was returned to the Austrian Government.

E.C.A. CHIEF IN AUSTRIA RESIGNS. Clyde N. King, chief of the Economic Administration mission in Austria announced his resignation effective February 1, 1951. Mr. King assumed his position on November 7, 1948. He plans to retire to his home in Springfield, Mo. He is a former vice-president of the International Harvester Export Company in Chicago.

In his farewell message, the chief of the ECA Mission stressed the extraordinary progress Austria had achieved in the economic field since 1948, and paid tribute to the accomplishments of the Austrian people and their Government. He said that Austria's production index had increased from 100 in 1937 to 130% today. At the beginning of 1948 it stood at only 88%. Agricultural output had likewise increased. The soil area under cultivation had increased from 1,709,000 hectares (1 hectare is equivalent to approximately 2.47 acres) in 1947 to 1,848,000 hectares in 1950; lumber production increased from 1,928,000 to 3,300,000 cubic meters (1 m<sup>3</sup> is equivalent to about 1.308 cubic yards or 35.316 cu. ft.); and paper production, from 187,000 to 240,000 tons. Exports increased in value from 198,000,000 to 315,000,000 dollars, electric power from 4195 to 5905 million K.W.H. Thanks to ERP investments, the hydroelectric power stations still under construction will, when they are completed, contribute considerably to the increase of the nation's foreign exchange earnings.

In 1950 Austria had attracted twice as many foreign tourists as in 1949. In spite of this considerable progress in the field of economic rehabilitation, Austria will continue to require some foreign aid in 1951 and presumably also in 1952, Mr. King said.

THE CONDITION OF AUSTRIA'S ECONOMY AT THE PRESENT TIME. The Austrian Institute of Economic Research states in its January report that in the past year the nation's industrial production, its export volume, certain branches of its agricultural production and its tourist trade reached new post-war records, with the consequence that in spite of the reduction in foreign aid the living standard of the Austrian people could still be somewhat improved. By a series of judiciously planned investments, the Institute writes, the foundations are now being laid for further increases in productivity and a higher standard of living. In 1950 Austrian industrial production increased by 18%, thus surpassing pre-war levels by 39%. This increase is attributed primarily to greater production efficiency: although industrial employment dropped by 4.7%, productivity increased by 10.2%. Agricultural production increased the output of meat by 30% and that of milk by 5%. On the basis of figures available to date, farm output is estimated at 90% of the 1937 levels, and at 17% in excess of the 1949 production.

The volume of exports expanded beyond all expectations. In November 1950, Austria exported goods valued at 765 million schillings. With due allowance for price increases, this figure is already 40% higher than in 1937. The tourist trade also reflected a marked upward trend. The total number of overnight accommodations for foreign visitors during the 1949-50 tourist year is estimated at 4.75 million (this represents 70% of the 1936-37 figure), as compared to 2.10 million in 1948-49. However, the foreign exchange earnings from the tourist trade were equivalent to only 20% in actual purchasing power of the proceeds derived from this industry before the war.

The Institute estimates that the total national income in 1950 increased by about 10%. This means that within a period of four years Austrian economy has succeeded in more than doubling the national income. In 1950 gross investments were about 8% higher than in 1949 and more than double the investment figures for 1937. One half of these investments were financed by public funds and counterpart funds, the

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the other half by private credits. The large investments made in 1950 enabled the economy to increase private consumption to only a moderate extent, as was the case during the previous year. The Institute believes that total consumption has now approximated that of the year 1937, although the country's population has increased by 5%. In 1950 the wholesale price index increased by 19%, but the cost-of-living index by only 7%. In spite of greater production, unemployment figures continued to climb in 1950. The number of those seeking employment during the past year averaged 124,800, as compared to 91,200 in 1949. By the end of December 1950 the number of persons seeking employment was 182,700, or 49,100 more than at the end of 1949.

In a forecast for the year 1951, the Austrian Institute of Economic Research states that the country's economy will be faced with serious problems, all of which will require solution. The major problems confronting it are the rapid decrease in foreign aid, the increasing difficulty in obtaining raw materials on the international market, the gradual reduction of government price subsidies, and the necessity of adjusting farm prices. If raw material shortages do not unduly hamper exports, the Institute believes that it should not be too difficult, as a result of the sellers' market expected to prevail internationally, for Austria's economy to compensate for decreasing foreign aid by increasing exports. A greater shortage of essential raw materials would not only adversely affect the nation's efforts to increase its production and productivity, but would also endanger the maintenance of its high level of employment. In 1951 Austrian economic policy will continue to favor a large volume of investments, a decision which will no doubt facilitate the preservation of a high level of employment, but one which nevertheless presents serious financing problems, inasmuch as the volume of domestic savings is bound to be sharply limited.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF E.R.P. RECONSTRUCTION CREDITS. Between April 1948 and October 1950, a total of 3,232.6 million schillings in reconstruction credits have been allocated to Austrian industry. Of these, 1,081.6 million (33.5%) went to electric power stations, 937.4 million (29%) to the mining and iron production industries, 485.5 million (15%) to the paper industry, 221.5 million (6.8%) to the textile industry, and 143.2 million (4.4%) to the chemicals industry. Considerable amounts were allotted to the non-ferrous metal industry (80.7 million), the machine-, steel- and iron-construction industries (71.6 million), and the electrical industry (44 million). Almost one third of the funds (i.e. 1,070.8 million) were invested in Upper Austria and 23.5% (759.8 million) in Styria, since the country's leading mines, metallurgical works and chemical plants are located in these two provinces. The relatively large amounts for Salzburg (409.1 million, or 12.7%) and Carinthia (325 million, or 10.1%) were allocated for the construction of large power stations. The other provinces and highly industrialized Vienna received only 252.7 million schillings or 7.8% of the total.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN TRADE VOLUME CONTINUES TO EXPAND. In November 1950 Austria exported 3,555,000 hundredweights (1 hundredweight is equivalent to 112 lbs.) of goods valued at 765 million schillings. This represents an increase of 90 million schillings over the figure for October. The volume of merchandise exported in November 1950 was greater than that of any other month of the year. The value of the goods sent to the United States increased from 45 to 49 million schillings, that of exports to Switzerland from 33 to 39 million. The proportion of finished goods exported increased to 572,559 hundredweights representing a value of 426.3 million (102 million schillings' worth of iron products, 57 millions' worth of paper, 30 millions' worth of cotton yarn, 31 millions' worth of wool yarn, 12.5 millions' worth of electrical apparatus, and 74.5 millions' worth of food and beverages). During November 1950 the volume of imports, including 111 million schillings of ERP deliveries, increased to 852 million. The purely commercial foreign trade balance showed a credit of 24 million schillings during the month.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. In 1950 United States buyers imported 20 to 25 per cent more goods from Austria than in the previous year. In 1949 Austria's total exports to the United State amounted to 9.6 million dollars, whereas in 1950 this figure was almost reached in the first nine months of the year. During the last quarter of 1950 there has even been a greater increase in Austrian exports to this

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country. In addition to woollens, magnesite, rhinestones, and staple fiber, the United States also imported considerable quantities of finished goods of various kind, and this trend is expected to augment still more the volume of Austrian exports to this country in the months to come.

AUSTRIAN NITROGEN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES. The Austrian Nitrogen Works have received their first order from the United States; it amounts to 20,000 tons. Order for a total of 65,000 tons have also been received from other countries. This figure represents a two months' output. In November the company produced more than 32,000 tons, as compared to an output of 30,500 tons in October and about 23,000 in November of last year. Austria will send Poland 30,000 tons of calcium ammonium nitrate from the Austrian Nitrogen Works; this shipment, in return for which Austria will receive Polish coal, is within the framework of the Polish-Austrian trade agreement.

AUSTRIAN EXPORTS OF RADIO RECEIVERS. In 1950 Austria exported radio receivers and radio parts in the amount of about twenty million schillings. Most of this equipment, which is of the high fidelity type, went to Western Germany (8 million schillings' worth), Greece (2 million), Egypt (1 million), Turkey (900,000 schillings), and Switzerland (700,000 schillings). Other countries which bought radio equipment from Austria were Yugoslavia, Poland and Finland.

AUSTRIAN FIRM EXPORTED FIVE MILLION LIGHTERS IN TEN MONTHS. During the first ten months of 1950, a single Vienna firm manufacturing cigarette lighters exported five million lighters to most parts of the world. Its major foreign market was the Netherlands, but the Near and Far East, Africa, North and South America, and Australia also imported substantial quantities. In spite of raw material shortages, the firm, which started production immediately after the end of hostilities, managed to export 284,000 lighters in 1946. During the following years its exports continued to climb: 613,000 lighters exported in 1947, 1,507,000 in 1948, and 3,766,000 in 1949. By the end of October 1950, the firm had passed the five million mark for the year. Complete figures for 1950 are expected to show that the company exported six million lighters during the entire year. Its present daily output averages 30,000 lighters having a value of about 100,000 schillings.

The percentage of exports to the foreign markets was as follows: the Netherlands, 20%; the Far East, 16%; Western Germany, 14%; the Middle East, 12%; Denmark, 12%; Africa and Australia together, 10%; Sweden, 7%; Switzerland, 4%; France, 2%; Belgium, 1%; other countries 2%. The demand for these lighters is reported to be growing constantly.

AUSTRIAN GLASS EXPORTS. Austrian glass exports in 1950 contributed approximately 200 million schillings in foreign exchange to the country's balance of trade. This represents a one-hundred-per-cent increase over the previous year.

The fancy glass-jewellery and small glassware industry -- most of whose craftsmen are former expellees from Czechoslovakia -- is making rapid progress and an important contribution to Austria's total exports. Austrian glassware, which has now practically attained the high standard of excellence for which Bohemian glassware used to be world-famous, is gaining an excellent reputation abroad. There is a growing demand for these products, particularly in Great Britain, France, the United States, South America, and the Scandinavian countries. Four additional glassworks were recently placed into operation to meet the demand.

TRAIN FARE REDUCTIONS GRANTED TO VISITORS OF VIENNA SPRING FAIR. The Austrian Federal Railroads will grant all visitors to the Vienna Spring Fair, to be held from March 11th to the 18th, a twenty-five per cent reduction in train fare for all trips from the Austrian border to Vienna and back. Vienna's state theaters will give fair visitors a twenty per cent reduction on all theater tickets. In order to be able to avail themselves of these benefits, visitors must be in the possession of a Fair Card, which may be obtained upon payment of \$2.00 from the Offices of the Austrian Trade Delegate, 25 Broad Street, New York 4, N.Y. (Telephone: BOWling Green 9-0056).

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AUSTRIAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS RECEIVE ORDER FROM URUGUAY. An Austrian firm has been awarded a Uruguayan bid for the delivery of 14 Diesel rail motor cars and 7 trailer cars for a total value of 1.4 million dollars. Leading locomotive works in the United States, England, Germany, France, Italy, Japan and Hungary had participated in the bidding.

STEYR-FIAT CAR ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS TO BE EXTENDED. The existing car-assembly arrangements between the Austrian Steyr-Daimler-Puch Corporation of Steyr, Upper Austria (U.S. Zone), and the Fiat Works of Turin, Italy, will shortly be extended with the new agreement to cover a volume of business on the order of 2.02 million dollars in each direction. Under the new arrangements, the Fiat Works will furnish component automotive parts for the assembling of Fiat passenger cars and trucks at Steyr. In exchange, the Steyr Works will deliver to Italy 560,000 dollars' worth of rear axles and \$300,000 worth of tractors. Moreover, the Fiat Works will also receive from a number of other Austrian firms magnesite products valued at \$520,000, and Klingerite brake facings and packings valued at \$100,000.

VORARLBERG TEXTILE INDUSTRY ATTAINS PEAK PRODUCTION. The year 1950 marked a considerable increase in the productive capacity of the Vorarlberg textile industry. The efficiency index in the province's wool-spinning mills increased from 93 to 100%, in its cotton-weaving mills from 103 to 110%, in its silk-weaving mills from 122 to 135%, and in the plants of its knit goods industry from 51 to 59%. The most serious problem facing the Vorarlberg textile industry today is the need for a regular and adequate supply of yarn. Negotiations are now in progress with the Swiss Government to assure such a supply.

AUSTRIA TO INCREASE ITS OUTPUT OF ANTIMONY. The E.C.A. office in Vienna recently announced that a dressing plant for antimony ore began operation in Carinthia in mid-November 1950. The construction of this plant was financed by 1.2 million schillings from the ERP Counterpart Fund. Its annual capacity is 7,200 tons of crude ore, which then yields 340 tons of antimony concentrate. This in turn yields 160 tons of pure metal per year. Austria's domestic consumption of antimony amounts to 120 tons per year and is used in the production of type, batteries, armatures, and, as antimony trisulfide, in the manufacture of matches. There is therefore a surplus of 40 tons which will be available for export.

AUSTRIAN COAL MINERS AGREE TO ADDITIONAL SUNDAY SHIFT. In order to increase their country's domestic supply of coal, Austria's miners have again agreed to work an additional Sunday shift in January. Such an additional Sunday shift enables Austrian mines to increase their output by some twelve to thirteen thousand tons.

90,000 WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES IN AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES. The official organ of the Austrian Trade Union Federation reports that at the present time the nationalized key industries of Austria employ 90,000 workers and employees. The value of the exports from these industries represents one third of the value of Austria's total exports. Their combined payroll amounts to one billion schillings per year. The production of the following items has been nationalized in Austria: lead ore, zinc ore, and copper ore (100% nationalized), iron ore (99.7%), natural steel (99.5%), pig iron (99.2%), lignite (95.6%), electric power (93%), and aluminum (68%).

AUSTRIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES TO 182,746. According to official figures released by the Austrian Ministry of Social Welfare, there were 182,746 unemployed in Austria as of the end of December 1950. Of these 127,328 were men and 55,418 women. This increase in unemployment is due to a decrease in farm work and to the seasonal drop in building activity. The 50 million schillings authorized from ERP funds to combat unemployment will supply 10,000 workers with immediate work on certain projects approved by the Ministerial Committee. These include river improvements, canalizations, bridge construction, tunnel construction, preliminary road construction, and interior construction.

AUSTRIA ASSURED OF ADEQUATE BREAD SUPPLY. Up to November 30, 1950, domestic deliveries of 63,713 tons of rye and 91,711 tons of wheat brought the total amount of bread grains on the Austrian market to 155,424 tons. The figures for the previous year had been 75,008 tons

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of rye and 64,832 tons of wheat, making a total of 139,840 tons of grain delivered. For the 1950-51 economic period Austria plans to import 650,000 tons of grain. ERP funds are expected to pay for 300,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of rye, with another 140,000 tons of wheat to be imported on a straight commercial basis. Moreover, the new trade agreement with France calls for deliveries of 100,000 tons of wheat, 5,000 tons of rye, 6,000 tons of rye flour, and 14,000 tons of wheat bread flour. In addition, 11,000 tons of bread grain is expected from Hungary. Should these latter deliveries not materialize, the grain will be purchased in South America. According to the official grain cultivation and harvest figures for the year 1950, Austria's agricultural acreage fell short of the year's goals by 56,800 acres for bread grain and by 44,500 acres for fodder cereals.

DANUBE RIVER TRAFFIC ON THE INCREASE. During 1950 the Austrian Danube Steamship Company carried 690,000 tons of freight on the river between Regensburg and Linz, as compared to only 446,000 tons in 1949. Most of the cargo carried by the company's vessels consisted of Ruhr coal, brought to Linz for the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST), and, in the other direction, of pig iron and sheet metal from the VOEST, as well as pitwood and sawed timber, grain and oil.

Passenger traffic also increased during the year, with 17,000 persons transported on group excursions and regularly-scheduled runs. The capacity of the company's fleet has been considerably expanded as a result of extensive repair work. There are now eight ships available for passenger traffic, and 21 motorboats and steamers, 108 lighters and 35 tankers for handling freight. Most of the war-damaged wharfs and other dock facilities have been repaired.

ELECTRIFICATION OF AUSTRIA'S RAIL NETWORK PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY. One fifth of Austria's total rail network has already been converted to electric operation. The electrification of the Western trunk line from Linz to Bregenz and of seven side lines has been completed, and present plans call for electrification of the remainder of this line, from Linz to Vienna, by 1953. The Villach-Tarvis and other sections of the Southern rail system will also be electrified. Of the 31 new electric locomotives the Austrian Federal Railways have on order, the first has already been delivered and completed its trial runs. It will be pressed into service shortly.

The greatest advantage Austria will derive from the expanded electrification of its railroad network will be the tremendous saving of bituminous coal, all of which has to be imported from abroad. Coal savings today already amount to 500,000 tons per year. The electrification program will also result in faster schedules and increased efficiency, not to speak of greater travelling comfort and cleanliness of operation.

Between 1946 and 1950 the electrification program has cost Austria approximately 510 million schillings. An additional 430 million have been earmarked for 1951 and 1952. A large portion of these funds will come from ERP counterpart releases.

AUSTRIA COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW CABLE RAILWAYS. The new cable railways have been built in Austria in order to make winter construction work possible on the state-owned hydroelectric power station of Kaprun, Salzburg (U.S. Zone).

One of these connects the Margaritzen Reservoir, adjoining the Pasterzen Glacier on the Grossglockner (12,460 ft.), with the valley 3,500 feet below, and has a total length of 3.7 miles, thus making it the longest cable railway ever built in Austria. It has a carrying capacity of 80 passengers and 15 tons of freight per hour.

The second cable railway, which is 2 miles long and has a carrying capacity of up to 2 tons, connects the Kaefertal with a station 2,133 ft. above the valley. Both of these new lines were built in nine months, the longer one at the cost of 7 million schillings.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO AID FREE-LANCE ARTISTS AND ARTISANS. On January 16, 1951, the Austrian Council of Ministers adopted a proposal submitted by Minister of Education Felix Hurdes that two per cent of the federal funds earmarked for the construction of buildings during the 1951 budget year be used for the artistic decoration of new and rebuilt structures. This measure is intended to aid the free-lance artists and artisans of Austria, who have been in dire economic straits as a result of the almost complete lack of private orders. Such a situation, Dr.

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Hurdes declared, would have an extremely unfavorable effect on the creative artistic life of Austria if allowed to persist for any length of time.

AUSTRIAN ART TREASURES IN THE UNITED STATES. In view of the great interest the American public is continuing to show for the three hundred art treasures from Austria's museums, which have been on exhibit in the United States since November 1949, the Austrian Government has agreed to leave the unique collection in this country and in Canada for another eleven months. The last exhibition of the Austrian works of art, which was held at the Chicago Institute of Art, closed on January 15. Between now and the end of the year the objects will be on display in St. Louis, Toledo (Ohio), Toronto (Canada), and Boston. The still tentative schedule is as follows: St. Louis (March 4 - April 22); Toledo (May 27 - June 24); Toronto (August 5 - September 16), and Boston (October 28 - December 15). More than a dozen American museums have requested the privilege of playing host to the Austrian art treasures, but it was finally decided to schedule the showings in such a manner that the people in all regions of the United States be given the opportunity to admire them.

ROSWITHA BITTERLICH EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK. The first American showing of oil paintings, water colors, drawings and graphic works by Roswitha Bitterlich of Innsbruck was opened at the Gallerie St. Etienne, 46 West 57th Street, New York City, on January 18, 1951, in the presence of the Austrian Consul General, Dr. Franz Matsch. Since 1938 nothing had been heard from Roswitha Bitterlich who in the years preceding the last war created one of the greatest sensations in the European art world. Many of her paintings were destroyed during the bombing of Stuttgart and Innsbruck, where they were stored. What remained and some of her recent works are now to be seen in the New York exhibition. The latter will remain open until February 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

"OLD VIENNA" BUICK ON DISPLAY AT MACY'S. The 1951 Buick "Old Vienna", a needle-point upholstered and custom appointed automobile, will be displayed at Macy's, New York, until February 3rd. The rear section of the car, a Buick Roadmaster Riviera sedan, is upholstered in hand-made needle-point designed and executed by Mme. Ida Jolles, one of the world's outstanding needle-point authorities, at her Vienna studios. Production of the needle-point required about eight months. The Macy showing is the beginning of a tour which will carry the car, together with a collection of the finest Viennese needle-point work, to about forty major U.S. cities.

AUSTRIAN CHEMISTS LECTURE AT BROOKLYN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE. Prof. Wacek of the Graz Institute of Technology and Prof. Kratzl of the University of Vienna lectured at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn on January 22, 1951, on the chemistry of lignin. Both Austrian chemists had just completed an extensive trip through Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Kansas, and Louisiana, where they visited scientific institutes and industrial plants, and also delivered a series of lectures. Prof. Wacek is vicepresident of the Austrian Wood Research Association. Prof. Kratzl's major field of work is the alkaline hydrolysis of ligninsulphonic acid. Both lecturers were very impressed by the organization of American research, which they believe would be of great value to Austria. In the event that Austria's rivers should no longer be able to cope with stream pollution as a result of waste lye solutions, the magnesium bisulphate process would have to be introduced.

YEARBOOK OF AUSTRIAN SCIENCE. The second volume (1949/50) of the Yearbook of Austrian Science was recently placed on sale by the Austrian Federal Printing Office, Schwarzenbergstrasse 5, Vienna I. The yearbook is a comprehensive reference work which contains a complete list of Austrian scientific institutes and schools, libraries, archives, publishing houses, and publications.

AUSTRIAN MORTALITY RATE DROPS AS SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES INCREASE. Austrian Minister of Social Welfare Maisel revealed in a speech delivered in Salzburg that Austria's mortality rate during the past decades had decreased considerably (1.4% in 1928, 1.3% in 1938, 2% in 1945, and 1.2% in 1948). Conversely, the number of individuals carrying social insurance increased from 1,010,000 in 1918 to 2,970,000 in

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1950. In 1918, the Minister said, Austria had a total of 4939 physicians, that is, one doctor for every 1360 inhabitants. Today, there were 11,351 physicians, or one for every 611 inhabitants. This proportion of doctors was justified in view of the fact that the mortality rate from certain diseases had increased in Austria. Thus, for example, in 1925 there were 9,146 deaths from cancer; in 1948 there were 13,915 deaths from this disease. The number of deaths from heart disease likewise increased from 13,434 in 1925 to 17,453 in 1948.

PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTS FOR YOUNG DOCTORS IN AUSTRIA. At the present time 4,360 students including 1,102 women are registered at the School of Medicine at the Universities of Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck. Of these, 1,500 will complete their studies in 1951 and 1,000 in 1952. In Vienna alone, 185 new students have entered the School of Medicine during the 1950-1 winter semester. Compared to this relatively high registration, there are only 829 panel positions available for graduate doctors and all of these are already filled. Only 240 additional vacancies will occur in the next few years and 273 applications for these have already been received. In the federal and municipal hospitals there are 1,394 secondary, assistant and visiting physicians for 13,304 patients. This represents a proportion of one doctor for every 15 to 25 patients, a ratio which is in keeping with the provisions of the Physicians' Law requiring one doctor for every 30 patients. If this ratio were to be decreased to an acceptable minimum of one to ten, the additional number of paid positions available would increase by only 200 to 250 at most. There is not much hope for young Austrian doctors to emigrate abroad since only Sweden has advised that she has openings, and these for 100 physicians. The prospects for medical students might become somewhat brighter if large corporations were to increase the number of doctors they now employ in their industrial plants.

HANDEL-MAZZETTI CELEBRATES 80TH BIRTHDAY. The well known writer, Enrica v. Handel-Mazzetti, who is generally recognized as the greatest living epic poet of Austria, celebrated her 80th birthday on January 10, 1951, in full mental vigor. Enrica v. Handel-Mazzetti has acquired a literary reputation that extends far beyond the borders of her native Austria, primarily as a result of her series of engrossing historical novels, most of which deal with the clash between the Reformation and the Counterreformation and the Austrian Baroque period. Her novels are characterized by the authenticity of her historical milieu and the forcefulness of her language. Her chief works are the historical novel "Jesse und Maria", published in 1906; a novel reflecting life in Central Europe in the 17th century; and "Die Arme Margaret", published in 1910, which is set against the background of Steyr at the time of the Counterreformation.

ACTIVITY OF THE VIENNA PHILHARMONIC IN PAST THREE YEARS. On the occasion of the annual meeting of the Vienna Philharmonic Association which was held at the end of December, Chairman Rudolf Hanzl presented a report on the activity of the Vienna Philharmonic during the past three years. During this period the association assumed responsibility for the maintenance of Gustav Mahler's grave, added the descendants of Franz Schubert to the list of those to whom it grants pensions, relieved Dr. Hans Pfitzner of the cares of his declining years, and gave him a home in Vienna.

The Philharmonic's guest concerts abroad included an appearance at the Edinburgh Festival under the baton of Bruno Walter, two series of concerts in London, Paris, and Switzerland under the direction of Wilhelm Furtwaengler, and the two recent trips, the first in the orchestra's eventful career, to Egypt under the baton of Clemens Kraus and to the Scandinavian countries under that of Dr. Furtwaengler. At the end of the meeting, Rudolf Hanzl was re-elected chairman for another three years.

CAST OF OTELLO PERFORMANCE AT SALZBURG FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED. Ramon Vinay, tenor of the Metropolitan Opera, has been engaged to sing the title role in the production of Verdi's Otello to be presented at this year's Salzburg Festival under the baton of Wilhelm Furtwaengler. The part of Desdemona will be sung by Dragica Martinis and that of Iago by Paul Schoeffler. The production will be under the direction of Dr. Herbert Graf of the Metropolitan Opera.

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THE AUSTRIAN MOTION PICTURE MARKET IN 1950. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction recently announced that Austria had imported 136 films in 1947, 210 in 1948, and 306 in 1949. Including the 18 pictures produced in Austria, the number of films which had their first showing in Vienna during the year 1950 increased to 442. The Austrian film market has a yearly capacity of about 300 full-length features, and the present supply of motion pictures is in excess of this. Of the countries supplying films to Austria, the United States heads the list with 202 pictures, followed by Western Germany with 71, England with 47, France with 21, Soviet Russia with 19, and Eastern Germany with 13. The remainder came from Switzerland, Sweden, Argentina, Denmark, Norway, and Hungary.

The total cost of Austrian film production in 1950 is estimated at between 43 and 50 million schillings. Seven of the 18 Austrian films which received their first screening in 1950 are of a literary and artistic nature, and four of these are generally regarded as having enhanced considerably the reputation of Austria's motion picture industry abroad. Four productions of purely entertainment value were also extremely successful and widely acclaimed.

EDISON EXHIBITION IN VIENNA. The Technical Museum of Vienna is preparing a great Edison Exhibition to be held concomitantly with the 1951 Vienna Festival which starts on May 26. The exhibition is being organized to commemorate Edison's death twenty years ago and also his visit to Vienna forty years ago, when the Wizard of Menlo Park lived at the Park Hotel in Hietzing. Rare Edison memorabilia are expected to be lent to the exhibition and their arrival from the United States is now being awaited. After the Vienna exhibition, the committee plans to put together a modern travelling show, the subject of which will be the influence of Edison's inventions on European technology. The travelling exhibition will visit Rome, Paris, London and other European cities.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE WINTERSPORTS MEETING HELD IN KOESSEN. The Travel Service of the Academic Workshop for Student Travel announced that an International Collegiate Wintersports Meeting is being held in Koessen (Wilder Kaiser), in the Tyrol, from December 1, 1950 to March 31, 1951. All those wishing to participate should notify the "Akademische Arbeitsgemeinschaft", Kolingasse 19, Vienna IX, indicating the exact date and length of their projected visit. The program of the international gathering has many attractive features, including sight-seeing and all types of winter sports. Excellent hotel accommodations are available, and foreign visitors will have ample opportunity to acquaint themselves with Austria's colorful customs and her picturesque mountain landscapes.

AUSTRIAN SKI CHAMPIONS CHALK UP NEW SUCCESSES. On January 7, 1951, the Grand Prize of the City of Innsbruck in special ski jumping at the Berg Isel ski-jump was won by the Austrian master skier Sepp Bradl, with an official placement of 74 meters and 220.9 points. Forty-six jumpers from nine countries competed before 25,000 enthusiastic onlookers. On January 21 Sepp Bradl celebrated his second great triumph of the year, when he was again placed first at the International Winter Sports Festival in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. His jump of 75.5 meters and score of 225.5 points gave him the winning lead over 43 star skiers from seven different countries. On January 18, in the Special Slalom also at Garmisch, Austria's Christl Prawda nosed out Italy's Zeno Colo by 1.3 seconds. The Alpine Combination at Garmisch was won by the Austrian, Engele Haider, with Zeno Colo (Italy) and James Couttet (France) taking second and third place, respectively.

JOSEF LANNER COMMEMORATIVE STAMP. The Austrian Post and Telegraph Administration will issue a 60-groschen commemorative stamp on April 12, 1951, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of the well known waltz composer Josef Lanner.

GRETE WIESENTAL BALLET TO TOUR UNITED STATES FOR SECOND TIME. A group of five female dancers of the noted Grete Wiesental Ballet of Vienna left Austria at the end of January for a second tour of the United States, where they will perform principally at colleges and universities. The group, whose first series of guest appearances in the United States was a great success, will now offer twenty different dances, the choreography of which is based on music by Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Lanner, and Strauss. The tour will presumably last until the end of April.

